

11 June 1970

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Portraits of Directors of Central Intelligence

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to try to reconstruct the record in support of the decision to hang in the CIA Headquarters Building portraits of Major General William J. Donovan, World War II Director of the Office of Strategic Services, and the Directors of Central Intelligence since the Central Intelligence Agency was established on 18 September 1947 by the National Security Act of 1947.

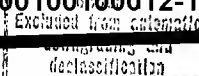
2. A diligent search has failed to produce any written record of this decision or the deliberations which undoubtedly preceded it. However, from discussions with a number of Agency officers and from my personal memory, it is evident that the decision was a conscious one supported by the following rationale:

a. General Donovan: Because he was the Director of OSS, the World War II predecessor to CIA, and because of the leading role he played in establishing a permanent Central Intelligence Agency;

b. Rear Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, General Walter Bedell Smith, Allen W. Dulles, John A. McCone, Vice Admiral William F. Raborn: Because they were all Directors of Central Intelligence and also administrative heads of the Central Intelligence Agency.

3. Rear Admiral Sidney W. Souers and General (then Lieutenant General) Hoyt S. Vandenberg were not included because, while they both held the title of Director of Central Intelligence, neither was ever the administrative head of the CIA. In recent weeks the question of adding Admiral Souers and General Vandenberg to our gallery has been raised and considered in several forums: The Fine Arts Commission, the Executive Director-Comptroller/Deputy Directors/IG/General Counsel group, and others. This in turn raised another

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question; specifically, if we hang portraits of Admiral Souers and General Vandenberg on the theory that this would provide continuity through all of the DCI's, should we not also hang portraits of Brigadier General John Magruder and Lieutenant General (then Colonel) William W. Quinn, who were both Directors of the Strategic Services Unit during the interim between the dissolution of OSS and the legal establishment of CIA. Suffice it to say that there is a great lack of unanimity of opinion on these questions.

4. These questions have been thoughtfully considered by the Director. It has been decided to confirm the original decision, and this memorandum is intended to serve as a permanent record of this decision.

  
L. K. White

Executive Director-Comptroller

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